

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-04 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

SP-03 DRC-01 /202 W

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R 041916Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6240

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNWFC

SUBJECT: OPENING SESSION WFC PREPCOM II

PASS AGRICULTURE

1. SUMMARY. PREP COM SESSION GOT OFF TO SLOW START WITH MUCH TIME SPENT DEALING WITH NUMEROUS SUGGESTED REVISIONS OF CONFERENCE DRAFT AGENDA AND ABORTIVE ATTEMPT BY SOME LATIN AMERICANS TO REPLACE COLOMBIAN VICE CHAIRMAN WITH CUBAN. SECGEN MAREL GAVE OPENING STATEMENT RUNNING OVER MAIN AGENDA POINTS. ALGERIANS PROPOSED DELETION NATIONAL ACTIONS FROM AGENDA ITEM 8 BUT WERE OPPOSED BY US AND OTHERS.

2. SESSION OPENED AS SCHEDULED WITH RYDBECK CONTINUING IN CHAIR. AGREEMENT EASILY REACHED ON FOUR-ITEM AGENDA FOR THIS SESSION, E.G. A) HEAR STATEMENT OF SECRETARY GENERAL MAREL, B) APPROVE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR WFC, C) APPROVAL WFC DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND D) REVIEW SECRETARIAT ASSESSMENT OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION.

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3. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT MAREL NOTED GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS HE UNDERTOOK SINCE PREPCOM I AND THEN CALLED FOR FOUR AREAS OF ACTION TO RESULT FROM WFC:

A) IMPROVED INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS,
B) ARRANGEMENTS ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY,
C) LONG-TERM POLICY ON FOOD AID, AND
D) HARMONIOUS INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON PROCE STABILIZATION AND AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT. ALSO PROPOSED EARNMARKING VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR NEX INTERNATIONAL FUNDS TO ASSIST MSAS BE PARTIALLY EARNMARKED FOR FOOD AID AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP WITH IMPORTANT TASK OF INCREASING PRODUCTION IN LDCS.

4. SESSION'S PROGRESS DELAYED BY ULTIMATELY ABORTIVE EFFORT BY SOME LATINAMERICAN STATES TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION OF PREPCOM OFFICERS AND, IN PARTICULAR, TO SUBSTITUTE CUBA FOR COLOMBIA AS LA REPRESENTATIVE AMONG PREPCOM VICE PRESIDENTS. EFFORT LED ON CONFERENCE FLOOR BY VENEZUELA BUT DISINTEGRATED WHEN LAS FAILED TO UNITE BEHIND THIS SUPPOSEDLY REGIONAL INITIATIVE. SOME OTHER LDC REPS OUTSIDE LA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. IN RETREATING, VENEZUELA PROMISED TO RENEW EFFORT TO ROTATE CHAIRMANSHIP AT PREPCOM III. U.S. MADE STRONG STATEMENT ON EFFORT AS OUT-OF-ORDER IN VIEW DISCUSSION OF PREPCOM I AND WAS SUPPORTED BY GERMANY ON BEHALF OF EC.

5. NUMEROUS, AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY, AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT WFC AGENDA INTRODUCED. THESE WILL BE DEALT WITH LATER AS SECRETARIAT STURGGLES TO PRESENT COHERENT REVISED DRAFT.

6. ALGERIA PROPOSED DELETE "NATIONAL" FROM "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS" ON GROUNDS WERE INTERNAL MATTERS WHICH EACH LDC MUST DECIDE FOR ITSELF. US OBSERVED THIS WOULD LEAVE LITTLE FOR WFC TO CONSIDER AS APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR AID EEQUALLY NATIONAL MATTER. PAKISTAN ADDED THAT RESERVE PROGRAM ALSO DEPENDED ON NATIONAL ACTIONS OF EXPORTERS.

7. TEDIOUS RULE BY RULE REVIEW OF WFC DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE INSISTED UPON BY INDIA. REVIEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED TODAY.

8. SESSION GOT OFF TO SLOW START BUT SHOULD GET DOWN TO MORE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS TOMORROW IN REVIEWING ASSESSMENT OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POLICIES, FOOD ASSISTANCE, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA03533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740142-0204
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740678/aaaacpbi.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING SESSION WFC PREPCOM II PASS AGRICULTURE
TAGS: AORG, EAID, EAGR, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005